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AUTHORITY

AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

AD 860218

AGDA (M) ^{IN REPLY REFER TO} (22 Sep 69)

FOR OT UT 692218


29 September 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 63d Signal Battalion, Period Ending 30 April 1969

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 5b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT UT, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.
2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:


ROBERT E. LYNCH
Colonel, AGC
Acting The Adjutant General

1 Incl
as

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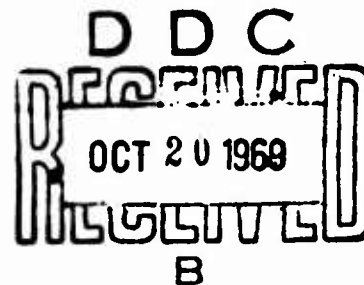
Deputy Chiefs of Staff

Chief of Research and Development

Assistant Chiefs of Staff

Chief of Engineers

Commandant of the Marine Corps



UNCLASSIFIED REPORT

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ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR FORCE DEVELOPMENT
(ARMY) ATTN FOR OT UT. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters 63rd Signal Battalion
APO 96308

SCCPV-PG-PB

30 April 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters 63rd Signal Battalion (Army)
for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Section 1, Operations: Significant Activities.

a. General:

(1) The 63rd Signal Battalion functioned on a stable basis during the past quarter. The units of the battalion continued to improve living areas, communication facilities, and operational areas with major emphasis directed to making operational areas safe during enemy attacks.

(2) The mission of the 63rd Signal Battalion remains the same. The units of the battalion continue to provide support on a fixed station and mission basis. Systems were both activated and deactivated in order to give high quality communications to the subscribers wherever they might be located.

(3) During the past reporting period the 63rd Signal Battalion undertook to bunker in all communication facilities, thereby making continuous operation during enemy attack possible. This project was under the personal supervision of the Battalion XO MAJ Elliott.

(4) All units of the battalion continued to prepare for the coming CMMI and IG Inspections.

(5) The organizational structure of the battalion to include organic, assigned, and attached units under the battalion's operational control are listed in enclosure 1.

b. Activities

(1) On 2 February the DGH-IWCS tie cable splicing project was completed.

(2) On 4 February the 596th Signal Company hired three Vietnamese telephone operators.

(3) On 8 February the B/37th Signal Company completed the revetments around all troop billets in the company area.

FOR OT UT

692218

Inclosure

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(4) During the week 2-8 February the 17th Signal Platoon completed setting poles and began installing cable on the Hoi An South Cable Project.

(5) On 11 February the 270th Signal Company installed three 750 watt light bulbs in the motor maintenance tent to improve working conditions.

(6) During the week 17-22 February circuits JKQ2 and V2086F were rerouted from VHF onto cable. This marks the first use of the 400 pair BGL-GIA Le- FUM BAI tie cable for teletype and secure tone circuits.

(7) During the week 17-22 February a 48 channel TRC-29 was installed at OTR MACV to replace the TRC-24 equipment.

(8) During 22-25 February communications facilities at Hue Citadel Signal Site were rehabilitated to include bunkering of all operational areas. This was accomplished by a battalion construction team working directly under the supervision of the Battalion XO.

(9) During 26-27 February a battalion construction team completed the Cua Viet Signal Site rehabilitation.

(10) During 28 February- 5 March the battalion construction team completed Gia Le Signal Site rehabilitation.

(11) On 2 March Hill 180 radio relay site was deactivated.

(12) During 6-12 March a battalion construction team completed Quang Tri City Signal Site rehabilitation.

(13) On 7 March the 27th Engineers cut the 400 pair Phu Bai- GLE-BGL tie cable. Cable was repaired and returned to service in approximately 15 hours.

(14) On 8 March the 63rd Signal Battalion Contingency Force conducted a two day exercise to test the performance and efficiency of the team in supporting the XXIV Corps Contingency Plan.

(15) On 12 March a Battalion Quality Assurance Team was formed with CPT Thomas J. Young Jr as the OIC.

(16) During 14-18 March the rehabilitation of TCC Commo center was completed.

(17) On 17 March LZ Ansio VHF Site was deactivated due to the movement of 1st Bde 101st ABN Division.

(18) On 18 March Hue Citadel MTC-7 switchboard was placed in a standby position. This was accomplished by connecting all Hue Citadel subscribers to the Hue Switchboard over the 50 pair tie cable between Hue MACV and Hue Citadel.

Incl

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for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS OSFOR-65 (R1)

(19) On 22 March installation of Gia Le distribution frame installed by 1st Signal Bde team was completed.

(20) On 23 March the construction of a water point at CPT was completed.

(21) On 24 March the 588th Signal Company hired five Vietnamese Nationals as mess attendants.

(22) On 25 March installation and cut-over of the new MTC-1 at XXIV Corps TCC Communication Complex was completed.

(23) During 1-5 April B/37th Signal Company renovated its mess hall, improving safety for personnel working in the kitchen area.

(24) During 7-12 April B/37th Signal Company installed a new power distribution cable throughout its company area. The cable was placed on poles 30 feet above the ground to prevent it being cut by trenchers.

(25) During 7-12 April the 17th Signal Platoon installed Spiral 4 cable line from MAG 36 to XXIV Corps Frame. This line carries the very important AUTOSEVCOM Circuit to MAG 36 subscribers.

(26) On 13 April the Tandem Switch installation for the Phu Bai area was completed.

(27) During 15-30 April the 63rd Signal Battalion received its Annual CPTI Inspection by the ICTZ Signal Group CPTI Team.

(28) On 18 April at approximately 1100 hours the 300 pair cable to Whiskey TRC Site was cut by a bull dozer. The 17th Signal Platoon buried 800 feet of cable to a depth of six feet and completed two splices by 1945 hours.

(29) On 23 April the 270th Signal Company installed Fire Base Whip in the A Shau Valley in support of the 101st ABN Division.

c. Personnel and Administration:

(1) Critical shortages still exist in a few communication MOS's. The battalion has not experienced a rotational hump over the last quarter. The influx of both enlisted and officer personnel has been smooth, timely and adequate to replace losses. However, the battalion is still 120 personnel under authorized strength.

(2) The local Industrial Relations Department office became more functional during the quarter. Established procedures enabled personnel actions to be handled smoothly and efficiently. Additional switchboard operators were hired bringing the total to six. However, polelinemen,

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters 63rd Signal Battalion (Army)
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the other authorized position under Program 6, were not hired due to the inability of the IRD to locate qualified personnel. The battalion submitted a request to increase augmentation personnel from 28 to 90. These positions were kitchen helpers, cooks and waste burners. The recently USARV imposed freeze on hiring creates an uncertain outlook for future fills.

(3) At present the courier system has been very effective going to companies up north. However, the system is not as effective coming from these companies as distribution goes through XXIV Corps, ICTZ Signal Group and then to this headquarters.

(4) The awards program has been highly effective as many recommendations have been submitted. The rate approved has slowed down some, but of those approved more have arrived while the individual is still present in the command. Previously most of the personnel had departed. This is also attributed to recommendations being submitted earlier.

d. Security

(1) During the reporting period there was one administrative security violation which involved improper mailing procedures. Emphasis is being placed on following security regulations to the letter. All minor administrative violations are reported and RFI's sent back to the battalion.

(2) Physical Security and counterintelligence inspections continue to be conducted as outlined in current regulations.

(3) Controlled documents are continually being reviewed for possible down-grading or destruction. During the reporting period 140 documents were destroyed.

e. Safety

(1) An effective safety program is in operation throughout the battalion. Control measures have been established to insure the safe operation of all vehicles. The following recordable accidents occurred during the quarter: Personnel accidents: two (2); Vehicle accidents: three (3).

(2) Accident exposure of the quarter:

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>MAN-DAYS</u>	<u>MILEAGE</u>
FEB	Mil 29,760 Civ 18,352	61,188
MAR	Mil 26,712 Civ 26,932	61,479
APR	Mil 28,110 Civ 26,040	32,254

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters 63rd Signal Battalion (Army)
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f. Training

(1) A uniform driver training program has been initiated in the 63rd Signal Battalion. This program was started the training week of 27 April thru 3 May 1969.

(2) The battalion is in the process of establishing training for the communication supervisors. It will be on a self-teaching basis and will concern mostly site OIC's and NCOIC's. The program has been delayed due to preparations for AIG Inspection.

(3) This battalion has accomplished a testing schedule with the Personnel Service Unit. Personnel, ICTZ, will administer these tests also.

(4) An effective formal school of 1st Signal Bde helps to alleviate shortages in certain MOS's.

g. Logistics

(1) Requisitioning of Major End Items: It has been experienced by this battalion that when requisitioning major end items, that we get much faster fill by utilizing the following procedures:

(a) Consolidate all requisitions at Battalion S-4 with valid milstrip number already annotated on the DA form 2765-1.

(b) Hand carry the requisitions directly to the 14th Inventory Control Center.

(c) Obtain Material Release Orders and arrange for escorts to pick up items directly from the depot involved.

(2) Maximizing the Supply Effectiveness Programs: During the past quarter the battalion has realized much improved supply effectiveness due to the S-4 Assistance team. The Battalion Supply Sergeant and the Battalion Signal Supply Sergeant are continually on the road visiting the various units not only inspecting, but conducting informal training sessions on an individual basis. This program has been especially beneficial to the battalion in view of the fact that the majority of the supply personnel are not carrying supply MOS's.

(3) Utilization of Escorts: Incidents in the past have demonstrated that if escorts report telephonically to the S-4 section at least once daily, the battalion can save time and manpower. Often when escorts are out, an additional requirement will arise for a man at that location. With the escorts reporting daily, we can use the same man for the additional requirement.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters 63rd Signal Battalion (Army)
for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS OSFOR-65 (R1)

h. Operations

(1) During the reporting period, units of the battalion continued to operate a variety of multi-channel systems.

(2) A summary of systems activations and deactivations is shown below:

FFH65	PHB-GAE	5 FEB	Deactivated
77UX6R	PHB-DGH	5 FEB	Activated
FFH74	PHB-OTA	24 FEB	Deactivated
FFH76	PHB-HUF	24 FEB	Activated
FFH69	DGH-DGHW	3 MAR	Activated
FFH60	OTA-CRD	12 MAR	Activated
FFH59	EGL-LZA	17 MAR	Deactivated
FFH71	EGL-EGL South	18 MAR	Activated
FFH72	HUE CIT/HUE MACV	18 MAR	Deactivated
FFH73	LES-FBW	23 APR	Activated
FFH57	EGL-HUN	29 APR	Activated
77UH37	HUE MACV-VTR	30 APR	Deactivated

(3) The 63rd Signal Battalion operates ten (10) switchboards in Northern I Corps Area. There are nine (9) area switchboards and one (1) TOC switchboard at nine (9) locations. In the Cuu Viet area, the MTC-10 was replaced by an SB-86. The MTC-10 was salvaged. Hue Citadel MTC-7 was placed on standby with the completion of the Hue-Hue Citadel tie cable. Hue Citadel SWBB remains in place and can be activated momentarily in case of a cable cut on the tie cable.

(4) The following cable projects were completed during the last quarter: Hue-Hue Citadel 50 pair tie cable, Hoi An South project, DGH-ICS project, and loading of the PHB-GAE-EGL tie cable.

(5) Switchboard Facilities:

Phu Bai	DTE
Dynamic Toc	MTC-1
Gia Le	MTC-1
Eagle	MTC-9
Hue MACV	MTC-1
Hue Citadel	MTC-7 (on standby)
Camp Evans	2 TTC-7
Quang Tri Army	MTC-9
Quang Tri City	MTC-3
Cua Viet	SB-86

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters 63rd Signal Battalion (Army)

(6) Phu Bai Dial Telephone Exchanges: The Phu Bai Dial Telephone Exchange is a 1000 line XY Stromberg Carlson Exchange. The present fill and the exchange is as follows:

(a) Trunks: 117

(b) Class A mainline instruments installed: 253

(c) Class C mainline instruments installed: 567

(7) Cable Surveys Conducted: During the past report period the following cable surveys were conducted:

<u>Survey</u>	<u>Conducted by</u>
Duc Pho Distribution	40th Signal Battalion
Red Devil Distribution	ICTZ Signal Group

(8) Cable Installation: During the past reporting period the following cable was installed:

Phu Bai	300 ft	300 Pair	PE 23	For O & M
Phu Bai	300 ft	600 Pair	PE 22	For O & M
Gia Le	1050 ft	400 Pair	PE 23	For O & M

(1) Visitors

(1) On 9 February COL Anderson, G-2 STRATCOM, visited the 63rd Signal Battalion.

(2) On 19 February, GEN Rienzi, CG 1st Signal Brigade, visited the 63rd Signal Battalion.

(3) On 25-26 February, GEN Terry, CG STRATCOM PAC, and GEN Rienzi, CG 1st Signal Brigade, visited the 63rd Signal Battalion.

(4) On 9 April, COL Crawford, CG 1st Signal Brigade, visited the 63rd Signal Battalion.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters 63rd Signal Battalion (Army)
for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFC7-65 (R1)

2. Section 2. Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations,
and Recommendations.

a. Personnel: None

b. Operations:

(1) Cleaning of Teletypewriters

(a) OBSERVATION: It was noted that to disassemble, clean, and reassemble a teletypewriter took a total of 1 3/4 man hours.

(b) EVALUATION: By using a pneumatic oiler total cleaning time is cut to 10 minutes. This is due to the fact that no disassembly or reassembly is necessary.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: When cleaning teletypewriters a pneumatic oiler, loaded with solvent, be used. The oiler should be attached to an air hose having 10-25 lbs psi.

(2) Binding Post for Power Supply, PP-990

(a) OBSERVATION: During an operation at an isolated site a binding post on the power supply, PP-990, was found to be defective and required replacement on site since no backup power supply was available.

(b) EVALUATION: A binding post from a junction box, J-1077, was used as a field expedient. This proved very satisfactory and prevented long outage.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Any unit needing a binding post for the PP-990 in a similar situation, utilize a binding post from the Junction Box, J-1077.

(3) Reperforator Tapes in Communication Facilities

(a) OBSERVATION: Generally reperforator tapes are allowed to run on the floor when punching or transmitting. As a result the tapes pick up dust and dirt from the floor subject to being tangled, stepped on, etc. This dirt travels with the tape into the perforator causing maintenance problems and eventually unnecessary breakdown.

(b) EVALUATION: Much of this difficulty can be eliminated by placing a container underneath the equipment to catch the tape as it is punched. An effective container can be built from scrap wood. The dimensions of the container should be 2 feet long by 2 inches wide by 6 inches deep. Such a container has been tested and found to meet all the requirements.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters 63d Signal Battalion (Army)
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(c) RECOMMENDATION: Recommend all Commcenter facilities having a tape punch capability construct and utilize a container to catch the tape, thus preventing the collection of dirt and dust on the tape.

(4) Cable Hardware for Concrete French Power Poles

(a) OBSERVATION: During a recent cable project in Hue, cable was to be fastened to the local French power poles. While surveying the job, it was found that hardware which would not permanently alter the concrete French power poles would have to be used.

(b) EVALUATION: To solve this problem, cross arm braces were bent to fit around the pole. Holes were then drilled and a bolt placed through the holes so that a normal suspension clamp could be used. Since the poles get larger at the base this will prevent the braces from slipping down. By using this field expedient the cables can permanently be installed without altering the poles.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Recommend that any unit faced with the problem of installing cable on French concrete poles found in Vietnam utilize the above mentioned field expedient.

(5) Mounting of TRC-24 Antennas Atop an AB-216 Tower

(a) OBSERVATION: In order to prevent costly down time a technique had to be devised to mount antenna reflector screens to an AB-216 tower.

(b) EVALUATION: One antenna mast section from the AT-9036 was affixed, through the use of two "1" bolts positioned approximately three feet apart, to one of the corner posts of the top tower section. The reflector screens were then mounted on the AT-9036's H Frame which was placed on top of the mast section enabling the screen to be rotated a full 360 degrees to the desired azimuth. The bolts at the H Frame were tightened, thus securing the antenna screens in position providing maximum line of sight antenna orientation. Four such mast section configurations can be mounted in this manner.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Any unit needing to mount TRC-24 antennas to get maximum line of sight antenna orientation at a minimum down time should use the technique described above.

(6) Field Expedient for Splicing Tent

(a) OBSERVATION: Many times a splicing section may find that they must work in inclement weather when there is no splicing tent available.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters 63rd Signal Battalion (Army)
for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

(b) **EVALUATION:** It was found recently that by using a light weight cable rack with the canvas from a 2½ ton truck draped over it one can have a suitable substitute for a ground splicing tent.

(a) **RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that if a ground splicing tent is not available during inclement weather, a splicing team should use the above field expedient.

(7) Speedy Installation of Cable

(a) **OBSERVATION:** Recently, a unit was called upon to install emergency cable in order to put into service telephones which were out. Due to the lack of material and time element involved, normal construction practices were not used.

(b) **EVALUATION:** Two each 25 pair telephone cables were installed in the same manner as installing spiral 4 cable using marline, lacing clamps and no messenger.

(c) **RECOMMENDATION:** Although installation of this nature is not proper and will eventually lead to trouble, commercial cables can be installed in the same manner as field cables if required in emergencies.

(8) Rustproofing and Painting Signal Equipment

(a) **OBSERVATION:** Frequently personnel have been observed using steel wool to prepare metal surfaces of signal equipment for rustproofing and painting. Minute particles frequently enter cases and cause harmful internal shortings or grounding of circuits.

(b) **EVALUATION:** When a touch-up job is necessary, use No. 00 or No. 000 sandpaper to clean the surface to the bare metal. This gives a bright finish and eliminates foreign particles from getting into the internal parts of the equipment.

(c) **RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that when rustproofing or painting signal equipment greater care be taken to insure that particles removed by using sandpaper do not get into the internal working parts of the equipment.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters 63rd Signal Battalion (Army)
for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFGR-65 (R1)

3. Section 3, Headquarters, Department of the Army Survey Information:

Omitted.



~~-1 Incl~~
~~Organ. assigned,~~
~~attached OPCON units~~

DOMINGO RAMOS
LTC, SigC
Commanding

Incl wd Hq, DA

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- 5 - CO, ICTZ SIGNAL GROUP, APO 96308
- 1 - ea Staff Section, 63rd Signal Battalion, APO 96308
- 1 - ea Subordinate Unit, 63rd Signal Battalion

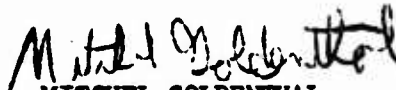
SCCPV-PGOI (30 April 1969) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters 63rd Signal Battalion (Army)
for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS OSFOR-65 (R1)

DA, HQ, I CTZ Signal Group, APO 96308

22 May 1969

TO: CG, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATOOM)
ATTN: SCCPV-CP
APO 96381

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with 1st Signal Brigade Regulation 1-19.
2. The report has been reviewed by this headquarters and is concurred in as indorsed.


MITCHEL GOLDENTHAL
Colonel, SigC
Commanding

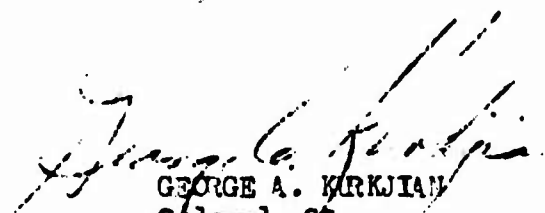
SCCPV-OP-SD (30 Apr 69) 2d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters 63rd Signal Battalion (Army)
For Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

DA, HQ, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM), APO 96384 4 June 1969

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,
APO 96375

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with USARV Regulation 525-15.
2. This headquarters has reviewed the report and concurs in it as indorsed with the following comment. Paragraph 1c(1), page 3, indicates a relatively stable personnel posture during the reporting period. Current understrength is comparable to Brigade wide understrength.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


GEORGE A. KIRKJIAN
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

CF:
Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Communications Command,
ATTN: DCS OPS SCC-OPS-RT, Fort Huachuca, Arizona
Commanding Officer, I Corps Tactical Zone Signal Group, APO 96308
Commanding Officer, 63rd Signal Battalion, APO 96308

AVHGC-DST (30 Apr 69) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 63d Signal Battalion (Army) for Period
Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 13 JUN 1969

THRU: Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Communications
Command-Pacific, APO 96557

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for
the quarterly period ending 30 April 1969 from Headquarters, 63d Signal
Battalion (Army) and concurs with the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



W. C. ARNTZ

CPT, AGC

Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:
63d Sig Bn
1st Sig Bde

SCCP-OP (30 Apr 69) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 63rd Signal Battalion (Army) for Period
Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

Headquarters, U. S. Army Strategic Communications Command - Pacific
APO San Francisco 96557 AUG 21 1969

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with AR 525-15.
2. This headquarters has reviewed and concurs with subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Frank C. Mahin

FRANK C. MAHIN
COL, GS
Chief of Staff

GPOP-DT (30 Apr 69) 5th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 63d Signal Battalion
(Army) for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS
CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 8 SEP 69

THRU: Commanding General, US Army Strategic Communications
Command, Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development,
Department of the Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forward-
ing indorsements and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



C. L. SHORTT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

Cy furn:
DA, ACSFOR
CG, USASTRATCOM-PAC

SCC-PO-CERA (30 Apr 69) 6th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 63d Signal Battalion (Army) for
Period Ending 30 Apr 69, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

Headquarters, US Army Strategic Communications Command, Fort Huachuca,
Arizona 85613 15 SEP 1969

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This Headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorse-
ments and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



ROBERT A. MALL
Captain, AGC
Asst Adj Gen

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CO, 63d Signal Battalion			
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